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OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE AND OPTICAL TRANSMITTING/RECEIVING

MODULE

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an optical waveguide and an optical transmitting and receiving module, particularly relates to an optical waveguide 10 connecting an optical fiber and an optical element and an optical transmitting and receiving module being provided with the same.

BACKGROUND ART

In recent year, in order that an optical module 15 used to an optical access system may make a size smaller and a cost reduce, an application of an optical transmitting and receiving module in which a transmitting operation and a receiving operation are performed together by using an optical waveguide etc. has been in 20 main current. As the background of this, an expansion of a data transmission capacity has been demanded by supporting explosive popularization of the internet. The optical transmitting and receiving module is mounted with both a light emitting element for transmitting light and 25 a light receiving element for receiving light.

In an optical transmitting and receiving module in

related art, an optical signal transmitted from an optical fiber is divided by a Y-branching waveguide and transferred to the respective light receiving element and light emitting element (for example, refer to Japanese 5 Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2000-206349 and No. 2002-169043).

Further, the optical transmitting and receiving module which the optical signal received from the optical fiber is transferred via a wavelength selection filter 10 only to the light receiving element has been proposed (for example, refer to Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2001-133642).

In the optical transmitting and receiving module mentioned in the Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication 15 (Kokai) No. 2000-206349 and No. 2002-169043, by using the Y-branching waveguide, the optical signal transmitted from the optical fiber is guided to two-branched waveguides in a ratio of one to one respectively.

Therefore, when the optical signal is received by the 20 light receiving element, the optical signal is guided to the light emitting element simultaneously. Consequently the optical transmitting and receiving module is not able to transmit the optical signal simultaneously with receiving the optical signal.

25 The optical transmitting and receiving module mentioned in the Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication

(Kokai) No. 2001-133642) can perform simultaneously a transmitting operation and a receiving operation, however the module has to be mounted with a wavelength selection filter or other optical element, so that it has a 5 disadvantage in terms of a cost and productivity.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has as its object to provide an optical waveguide able to perform simultaneously a transmitting operation and a receiving operation free 10 from other optical element, and an optical transmitting and receiving module for the same.

To attain the above object, the optical waveguide of the present invention has: a first waveguide having a common transmitting and receiving port at one side and a 15 receiving port at the other side, extending linearly, and able to guide an optical signal in bi-direction; and a second waveguide branching off from the first waveguide so as to make an acute angle with the receiving port, coupling to the first waveguide at one side, having a 20 transmitting port at the other side, and guiding an optical signal to the first waveguide.

According to the optical waveguide of the present invention, the incidence optical signal from the common transmitting and receiving port is guided by the first 25 waveguide to reach the receiving port. The first waveguide is extended linearly, so that the first

waveguide almost guides the incidence optical signal from the common transmitting and receiving port to the receiving port, and does not guide it to the second waveguide. Therefore, while the common transmitting and 5 receiving port performs an incidence of the optical signal, the transmitting port of the second waveguide can perform the incidence of the optical signal.

The incidence light from the transmitting port of the second waveguide is guided toward the first waveguide, 10 coupled to the first waveguide, and guided to the common transmitting and receiving port. The second waveguide is branched off from the first wave guide so as to make an acute angle with the receiving port, so that the light is not guided to the receiving port side and the optical 15 signal guided from the second waveguide is guided to the common transmitting and receiving port of the first waveguide.

To attain the above object, the optical transmitting and receiving module of the present 20 invention in which a optical fiber, a light emitting element and a light receiving element are coupled via an optical waveguide has: a first waveguide coupling to the optical fiber at one side and a light receiving element at the other side and extending linearly; and a second 25 waveguide branching off from the first waveguide so as to make an acute angle with the other side of the first

waveguide and coupling the first waveguide at one side and a light emitting element at the other side.

According to the optical transmitting and receiving module of the present invention, when the optical fiber 5 performs the incidence of the optical signal in the first waveguide, the optical signal is guided by the first waveguide and received by the light receiving element.

The first waveguide is extended linearly, so that the incidence light from the optical fiber is almost received 10 by the light receiving element and is not guided to the second waveguide. Therefore, while the optical fiber performs the incidence of the optical signal, the light emitting element can perform the incidence of the optical signal to the second waveguide.

15 When the light emitting element performs the incidence of the optical signal in the second waveguide, the optical signal is guided toward the first waveguide by the second waveguide, coupled to the first waveguide and guided toward the optical fiber.

20 The second waveguide is branched off so as to make an acute angle with the other side of the first waveguide, so that the optical signal is not guided to the receiving port which is coupled to the other side of the first waveguide and the optical signal guided by the second waveguide is almost guided to the optical fiber side of 25 the first waveguide.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plane view of an example of a configuration of an optical transmitting and receiving module having an optical waveguide according to the 5 present embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view along a line A-A' of the optical waveguide in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3A is a view of a waveguide shape and FIG. 3B is a view of a simulation result of an intensity pattern 10 of guided light in a receiving operation by the optical waveguide shown in FIG. 3A.

FIG. 4A is a view of a waveguide shape and FIG. 4B is a view of a simulation result of an intensity pattern of guided light in a transmitting operation by the 15 optical waveguide shown in FIG. 4A.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, embodiments of an optical waveguide and an optical transmitting and receiving module according to the present invention will be described with 20 reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 is a plane view of an example of a configuration of an optical transmitting and receiving module having an optical waveguide according to the present embodiment. And FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view 25 along a line A-A' of the optical waveguide shown in FIG. 1.

The optical transmitting and receiving module shown in FIG. 1 has an optical waveguide 2 formed on a substrate 1 of a silicon substrate or sapphire substrate, an optical fiber 3, a light receiving element 4 and a 5 light emitting element 5 which are mounted on the substrate 1.

The optical waveguide 2 has a first waveguide core portion (a first waveguide) 21 extended linearly and a second waveguide core portion (a second waveguide) 22 10 that one side is coupled so as to make an angle θ with the first waveguide core portion 21. As shown in the cross-sectional view of FIG. 2, the respective waveguide core portions 21 and 22 are formed on a cladding portion 20 which is formed on the substrate 1. Further, a 15 cladding portion 23 is formed so as to cover the respective waveguide core portions 21 and 22.

The first waveguide core portion 21 has a common transmitting and receiving port 21a at one side and a receiving port 21b at the other side, and guides the 20 optical signal in bi-direction. The first waveguide core portion 21 is preferably a multimode waveguide and formed with a diameter of 50 μm , for example. In other words, in order to couple the optical signal in low-loss guided 25 from the second waveguide core portion 22 which is branched off obliquely to guide it to the common transmitting and receiving port 21a, it is preferably

that the first waveguide core portion 21 is a multimode waveguide having a large diameter and an incidence of light in easily. The multimode waveguide is defined as a waveguide having a dimension able to guide a plurality of 5 modes of the optical signal (passing ways of light).

The second waveguide core portion 22 is formed with a branching portion 22a by coupling one side so as to make the angle θ with the first waveguide core portion 21 of the receiving port 21b side, and with a transmitting 10 port 22b at the other side. The angle and dimensions of the second waveguide core portion 22 which is branched off from the first waveguide core portion 21 obliquely are defined at an angle and dimension such that the optical signal guided from the optical fiber 3 is not 15 guided to the second waveguide core portion 22.

As a condition for this, the angle θ has to be an acute angle, which is preferably 5° to 60° . By defining the angle in this way, almost the optical signal guided from the common transmitting and receiving port 21a of 20 the first waveguide core portion 21 is guided passing through the linearly first waveguide core portion 21 to the receiving port 21b. Further, the optical signal guided from the transmitting port 22b is coupled to the first waveguide core 21 in low-losses and guided to the 25 common transmitting and receiving port 21a.

A dimension of the branching portion 22a of the

second waveguide core portion 22, namely a wide or thickness of the waveguide, is preferably smaller than the first waveguide core portion 21 with a linearly shape. By making a width or thickness of the waveguide at the 5 branching portion 22a smaller, it can prevent that the light signal guided from the common transmitting and receiving port 21a of the first waveguide core portion 21 is guided to the second waveguide core portion 22.

In an example shown in FIG. 1, the first waveguide 10 core portion 21 and the second waveguide core portion 22 are coupled so as to suppress a scatter of light, so that the second waveguide core portion 22 has a gentle curved shape.

The respective waveguide core portions 21 and 22 15 are formed by material which does not have absorption with respect to the used light and have a higher refractive index with respect to the used light than the cladding portions 20 and 23. The waveguide core portions 21 and 22 are formed by epoxy resin, fluorinated 20 polyimide or other polymer materials, for example, and the material is added with an impurity to adjust the refractive index.

The cladding portions 20 and 23 are formed by 25 material which does not have absorption with respect to the used light and have a lower refractive index with respect to the used light than the waveguide core

portions 21 and 22. The cladding portions 20 and 23 are formed by epoxy resin, fluorinated polyimide or other polymer materials, for example, and the materials is added with an impurity to adjust the refractive index.

5 Note that, the cladding portions 20 and 23 and the waveguide core portions 21 and 22 may be formed by same materials or different materials.

The optical fiber 3 is optically coupled at its one side to the common transmitting and receiving port 21a of 10 the first waveguide core portion 21 and mounted on the substrate 1. The optical fiber 3 may be a multimode fiber or a single mode fiber.

The light receiving element 4 is optically coupled at its receiving surface to the receiving port 21b of the 15 first waveguide core portion 21 and mounted on the substrate 1. The light receiving element 4 may be a photo diode, for example.

The light emitting element 5 is optically coupled at its emitting surface to the transmitting port 22b of 20 the second waveguide core portion 22 and mounted on the substrate 1. The light emitting element 5 can be used with a semiconductor laser such as a fabry perot laser (FP-LD) and a distributed feedback laser (DFB-LD) etc.

Next, an operation of the optical transmitting and 25 receiving module according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 1.

A receiving optical signal which is incidence of light from the optical fiber 3 is guided from the common transmitting and receiving port 21a to the receiving port 21b by the first waveguide core portion 21, and received 5 by the light receiving element 4. The optical signal is converted by the light receiving element 4 to an electric signal, and input to a not shown receiving circuit which is connected to the light receiving element 4. In the above receiving operation, the receiving optical signal 10 which is guided by the first waveguide core portion 21 is not guided to the second waveguide core portion 22 and the light emitting element 5, so that the light emitting element 5 can transmit a transmitting optical signal at the same time.

15 Namely, in the receiving operation, the transmitting optical signal emitted by the light emitting element 5 is guided from the transmitting port 22b to the branching portion 22a by the second waveguide core portion 22, coupled to the first waveguide core portion 21, guided to the common transmitting and receiving port 21a by the first waveguide core portion 21, and coupled to the optical fiber 3. The second waveguide portion 22 branches off from the first waveguide core portion 21 so as to make an acute angle θ with the receiving port 21b, 20 so that the transmitting optical signal is not guided to the light receiving element 4 side and does not affect 25

the receiving operation by the light receiving element 4.

5 The transmitting optical signal coupled to the optical fiber 3 is guided by the optical fiber 3 and transferred to the outside of the optoelectronic circuit device. Note that, wavelengths of the receiving optical signal and the transmitting optical signal can be changed.

10 Next, an example of a method for producing the optical transmitting and receiving module according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2.

15 First, epoxy resin, fluorinated polyimide or other polymer material is coated on the entire surface of the substrate 1 to form the cladding portion 20. Further, epoxy resin, fluorinated polyimide or other polymer material is coated on the entire surface thereof to form a high refractive index layer to be the core portion. The difference of the refractive index of the cladding portion 20 and the high refractive index layer is adjusted by adding an impurity.

20 Then, the high refractive index layer is formed on its surface with a resist having the predetermined pattern by photolithography, and performed with a reactive ion etching by using the resist as a mask to form the first waveguide core portion 21 and the second waveguide core portion 22 having shapes shown in FIG. 1.

25 The resist is removed, and then epoxy resin,

fluorinated polyimide or other polymer material is coated on the entire surface thereof so as to cover the waveguide core portions 21 and 22 to form the cladding portion 23. As a result, the optical waveguide 2 which 5 has the waveguide core portions 21 and 22 embedded in the cladding portions 20 and 23 is formed on the substrate 1 as shown in FIG. 2.

Then, the optical fiber 3 is mounted on the substrate 1 so as to couple one side of the optical fiber 10 3 with the common transmitting and receiving port 21a of the first waveguide core portion 21 optically.

Further, the light receiving element 4 is mounted on the substrate 1 so as to couple the receiving surface of the light receiving element 4 with the receiving port 15 21b of the first waveguide core portion 21 optically.

Furthermore, the light emitting element 5 is mounted on the substrate 1 so as to couple the emitting surface of the light emitting element 5 with the transmitting port 22b of the second waveguide core portion 22 optically.

20 Next, effects of the optical waveguide and the optical transmitting and receiving module according to the present embodiment will be described.

FIG. 3A is a view of a waveguide shape and FIG. 3B is a view of a simulation result of an intensity pattern 25 of guided light in the receiving operation by the optical waveguide shown in FIG. 3A. As shown in FIG. 3A, it is

simulated about the optical waveguide that a length of the first waveguide core portion 21 with linearly shape is 7 mm and an interval between the receiving port 21b of the first waveguide core portion 21 and the transmitting port 22b of the second waveguide core portion 22 is 250 μm . The respective waveguide core portions 21 and 22 are assumed as 50 μm square and the difference with respect to the refractive index of the cladding portion is assumed as 1.5%. Note that, the X-coordinate and Z-coordinate indicate a position coordinate in which a shape of the optical waveguide is divided by a μm unit.

As shown in FIG. 3B, in the receiving operation, the receiving optical signal of 97.6% is guided to the receiving port 21b of the first waveguide core portion 21 and the receiving optical signal of 0.0015% is guided to the transmitting port 22b of the second waveguide core portion 22. So the receiving optical signal almost goes straight in the first waveguide core portion 21 with the linearly shape. Therefore, the receiving optical signal which is incident of light to the first waveguide core portion 21 is guided to the receiving port 21b at low-loss of 0.10 dB which is not more than 1.0 dB. Note that, an intensity of the optical signal which is guided to the second waveguide core portion 22 is -28 dB, so that the optical signal is rarely guided.

FIG. 4A is a view of a waveguide shape and FIG. 4B

is a view of a simulation result of an intensity pattern of guided light in the transmitting operation by the optical waveguide shown in FIG. 4A. The optical waveguide shown in FIG. 4A is a same as FIG. 3A. Note that, in the 5 FIGS. 4A and 4B, the X-coordinate and Z-coordinate indicate a position coordinate in which a shape of the optical waveguide is divided by a μm unit.

As shown in FIG. 4B, in the transmitting operation, the transmitting optical signal of 87.8% from the second 10 waveguide core portion 22 is coupled to the first waveguide core portion 21 and guided to the common transmitting and receiving port 21a. Therefore, the transmitting optical signal from the second waveguide core portion 22 is guided to the first waveguide core 15 portion 21 at 0.57dB in low-loss which is not more than 1.0 dB.

As mentioned above, by the optical waveguide and the optical transmitting and receiving module according to the present embodiment, it can be realized that a 20 transmitting operation and a receiving operation is performed simultaneously in bi-direction by using a single optical fiber free from a wavelength selection filter or other optical element.

Further, the respective waveguide core portions 21 25 and 22 of the optical waveguide can be formed together by patterning etc. as mentioned above and a recess for

inserting a wavelength selection filter or other optical element is not needed, so that the optical waveguide in low-loss can be produced in high yield. Namely, if a wavelength selection filter or other optical element is 5 mounted, it may cause a deterioration of a characteristic such as a light scattering loss and reliability of the coupling strength.

The present invention is not limited to the above embodiment.

10 For example, materials for the substrate 1, the cladding portions 20 and 23 and the waveguide core portions 21 and 22 which are included in the optical waveguide are not limited and the material for the optical fiber 3 is not also limited.

15 Other than the above, a variety of modification may be made within the scope of the present invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The optical waveguide and the optical transmitting and receiving module in the present invention can be 20 applied to an optical access system, for example.